



Matthew T. Bell Jr.
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Chief of Staff, Pacific Area

Captain Matt Bell graduated from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona, earning a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry in 1984. He entered the Coast Guard through the Recruit Training Center in Cape May, New Jersey in 1985. He received his commission in 1986 upon graduation from Officer Candidate School in Yorktown, Virginia. He holds a Masters of Science in Chemistry awarded by Northern Arizona University in 1993.

Captain Bell reported aboard as Pacific Area Chief of Staff following assignment as Pacific Area Chief of Operations where he directly supported multi-mission interagency operations throughout the 74 million square mile pacific theater. He developed and executed a strategic framework to prioritize mission requirements and allocate forces that deployed to the Arctic in response to increased human activity, to the Eastern Pacific to stem the flow of illicit narcotics and to the Western Pacific to bolster multi-lateral partnerships in Southeast and Northeast Asia.

As a permanent cutterman his extensive experience afloat started prior to reporting to Officer Candidate School with his first assignment as a “deckie” aboard CGC CAPE UPRIGHT home ported at Tybee Island, Georgia. Additional afloat assignments include: Navigator of CGC RUSH in Alameda, California; Combat Information Center Officer of CGC SHERMAN in Alameda, California; Commanding Officer of CGC POINT DIVIDE in Newport Beach, California; Operations Officer of CGC RUSH in Honolulu, Hawaii; Executive Officer of CGC EAGLE in New London, Connecticut; Commanding Officer of CGC ALEX HALEY in Kodiak, Alaska; and Commanding Officer of CGC MUNRO home ported in Kodiak, Alaska.

Prior to reporting to CGC MUNRO he was assigned to Commander Task Group 55.6 in Manama, Bahrain as Commodore, Patrol Forces Southwest Asia. In this role he was the supporting commander to U.S. Naval Central Command / U.S. Fifth Fleet / Combined Maritime Forces for Maritime Security Operations, Maritime Interdiction Operations and Critical Infrastructure Protection in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Six U.S. Coast Guard 110 foot Island Class Patrol Boats and five U.S. Navy 179 foot Patrol Coastals were assigned to the task group conducting patrols throughout the Arabian Gulf.

Shore assignments include Fire Control Technician Class A school at Naval Training Center Great Lakes, Illinois; Leadership Instructor at Officer Candidate School in Yorktown, Virginia; Administration Officer at Coast Guard Group New Orleans in New Orleans, Louisiana; Chemistry Instructor at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut; Internist for the Space Life Sciences Training Program at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida; Aide to the Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy; Section Chief of Nautical Science in Cadet Professional Development at the Coast Guard Academy; and Chief, Cutter Forces Management, Coast Guard Pacific Area in Alameda, California.

Captain Bell’s personal awards include the Legion of Merit, four Meritorious Service Medals, four Coast Guard Commendation Medals, two Coast Guard Achievement Medals, and numerous service and unit awards.